

Message

From: Mary Walter [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]
Sent: 1/12/2021 3:16:25 PM
Subject: an announcement from the Conestee Foundation

January 11, 2021

Dear Friends and Supporters of Lake Conestee Nature Preserve,

Change is a constant in all of our lives and a major change has come to LCNP (Lake Conestee Nature Preserve.) Our long time Executive Director (ED), Dr. Dave Hargett, has stepped aside after more than ten years as Conestee's ED. Dave was also one of the founders of LCNP some 22 years ago and he has played a major role in Conestee's development into a large, well-loved nature preserve. We all wish Dave the very best and I am sure we will see him around the Preserve from time to time.

Conestee's new ED is Mr. Michael Corley, which most if not all of you already know. Michael is well known in upstate and statewide environmental and non-profit sectors for his work with SCELPA (South Carolina Environmental Law Project). Michael opened the upstate SCELPA office in 2016 as its ED and senior attorney. Michael has an undergraduate degree from Clemson University in engineering and his law degree is from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Michael has been involved in numerous environmental causes, many in the upstate, which have benefited our state and region. Michael brings a common sense, pragmatic approach to any issue with the intent of reaching a solution in an effective, efficient manner. Some of his approach is undoubtedly influenced by his undergraduate degree in engineering with its focus on finding a practical solution to whatever issue presents itself.

This past year has been a difficult year for all of us but we have great hopes that 2021 will see a major turn for the better. LCNP was closed for part of 2020 but the time was well used to complete, repair and provide needed maintenance to much of the preserve's infrastructure. There is more to be done in 2021, as there will always be more to be done, but under Michael's leadership the board looks confidently toward the future. There will be continued focus on maintaining and enhancing the preserve's trails, boardwalks and other amenities. We will continue to work with our partners and other interested parties in addressing both short term and long term needs of the aging Conestee dam. We are grateful for all our friends, supporters and patrons as Conestee is a wonderful, peaceful greenspace meant to be enjoyed by all.

We also want to take the time to thank the many who provide financial and/or in kind support for LCNP. Over the past 22 years LCNP has received, and continues to receive, substantial financial support from Greenville County Recreation, the City of Greenville, ReWa, the Community Foundation of Greenville, Graham Foundation, Priester Foundation, the Rose Ball and too many others to name. LCNP greatly appreciates every contribution, whether monetary, in kind, as part of a volunteer work group or in many other ways. Thank you to all!

So, please join me in welcoming Michael Corley to the LCNP team. He will be LCNP's leader and primary spokesperson for, we hope, many years to come. We hope to see you in LCNP soon!

William A. Bridges

Chair

